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Talented Women Win Recognition

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Six of the finest representatives of women in federal government, many of whom President Johnson described yesterday as under-used, often underpaid and underpromoted, were given their reward last night at the annual Federal Woman's Award dinner.

Without exception, they accepted modestly, said they loved their jobs and thanked the co-workers who helped make it all possible.

They felt, obviously, the President's earlier words had no application to them. If they were under-used, they had had no time to notice.

To get her award, Dr. Sarah E. Stewart had made discoveries that changed the course of cancer virus research.

Miss Carol Laise had won renown as a foreign service officer in South Asia.

Mrs. Dorothy Gilford had pioneered a fuller use of international scientific resources for national defense.

Miss Ann Caracristi had directed complex research and analysis in mathematics and languages as applied to cryptology in the interest of national security.

Dr. Penelope Thunberg's

analyses of Soviet bloc economics had been the basis of major American policy decisions.

And Dr. Elizabeth Drewry had won recognition as one of the foremost archivists of the world.

Honored Before 750

They were given their plaques before an audience of 750 at the Statler-Hilton Hotel by William S. White, the columnist.

"It is an honor to be in the presence of so much genuine talent, but a trial to compliment them publicly without seeming archly sycophantic," he joked. "But reason won out over habit," he said, and he came.

So did all sorts of officials — White House representatives, congressmen, agency officers and military personnel. Vice President Humphrey sent a message that he had "recently been reading with great interest the winners' biographies . . . my thanks for setting such a fine example."

Johnson had expressed a similar sentiment in the afternoon when he received the six winners at the White House. Their achievements, he said, should encourage more and more women to seek careers in the federal

service.

"The day has passed," he said, "when discrimination against able women can be condoned."

While equal pay for equal work is important, he said, "more important is equal opportunity and recognition for equal and often superior ability."

Last night's awards were sponsored by the Woodward & Lothrop department store. Established in 1960, they were designed to provide special recognition to women who have made outstanding contributions to the efficiency and quality of the career service of the government and to dramatize the wide variety of careers for women in government.

Nominations were made by the heads of departments or agencies.

The 1965 panel of judges was made up of White; Marion B. Folsom, director of the Eastman Kodak Co.; Mary Pillsbury Lord, former U.S. representative on the U.N. Commission on Human Rights; Anne Gary Pannell, president of Sweet Briar College, and Caskie Stinnett, assistant to the editor of Holiday Magazine.

Katie Louchheim, deputy assistant secretary of state for community advisory services, presided over the awards dinner, noting that the recipients were "six happy, well-adjusted women who, like men, have gotten status conscious" and want wall-to-wall carpets on their office floors and their names stenciled on the doors.

"And they all have a happy cynicism toward the fact that they are women," she said.

She complimented the President by saying he has changed the attitude of the public toward women.

"The customary roles have been reversed," she said. "Now, if you're a woman, you're 'in.'"